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The Circuit Writer

Ghent United Methodist Church

June 2010

Rebuilding the House of God

A special thank you to the whole congregation of Ghent UMC for your prayerful discernment regarding the renovation work to our church building's roof, repairs to our *Casavant*



Frères Organ and long needed updates to our education building.

On Sunday, May 23, as the flames of Pentecost burned anew in our hearts, 23 pledges totaling \$87,652.00 were made to assist in **Rebuilding the House of God**. It is not too late to pledge! You can help by placing your pledge card in the offering plate any

Sunday or by mailing it to the church office by Sunday, June 27.

In the next few weeks, we will sign the contracts to begin the critical roof repair work. Meetings with the contractor will determine where to stage their supplies, and establish a work priority. You should soon see the scaffolding, tools and workers as they begin to secure our roof just as we enter a worrisome hurricane season.

Continue to pray for our faith family, the safety of the workers, and our ministry for God in this community.



These photos show areas of weakness and places where leaking has been prevalent.



Saturday June 19 8 am - 1 pm

Don't miss our Rummage Sale to benefit **Vacation Bible**

School, and a variety of UMW Missions! To make this sale successful we need your stuff! There are **two weekends left** to go through your attic, basement, cabinets, closets, drawers, car trunks and garages for those items that you just don't want or need anymore! Place your items on the stage in the Social Hall! **Big items?** Call the church office and we'll find a way to get them picked up and brought over!

A Clean Sweep!

A devotion I love suggests an annual **Spring Cleaning of the Soul** in which we visit the dusty corners in the attic or basement of our minds to "clean out" bad feelings, hurtful memories, and regrets, then bring them out into the light of Christ's healing and redemption. We take on those overloaded closets to toss out extra baggage - like fear, excess pride or unhealthy attitudes. After we've cleaned out the painful, false, and useless items, we now have room to fill those spaces with Truth from God's Word, knowing we'll have to work to keep those spaces clean in the future! So as you clean out your earthly house to prepare for the **Rummage Sale**, think about a Clean Sweep of your Spirit too!



Christian Service!

"The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

In the Gospel of Matthew, as Jesus is nearing the end of his time with the disciples before his crucifixion, he talks to them several times about the end times - how God's judgment will take place. What I find interesting is that in Matthew's gospel, Christ does not only consider how well we've studied His Word, how faithfully we've joined the Body of Christ in worship, or how consistently and passionately we've met Him in prayer; but how well we've incorporated these important disciplines in our daily living. Christ says we will be judged on how we treat people, and He emphasizes in particular the "least of these."

The week of June 19-26, three youth and I will give a week of Christian service in Jonesville, VA. This work is coordinated through Appalachia Service Project, because in that region:

- Poverty is more than double the national average
- One in four lives below the poverty level -- 105,000 children, 195,000 adults, and 35,000 elderly
- 62,500 homes are substandard
- 19,000 homes lack adequate kitchens
- 21,000 homes lack complete plumbing

- Nearly half of the families have annual household incomes below \$20,000

While we go on this trip to repair homes for those who are not able to do so on their own, the important ministry of ASP is one of presence. The week we spend with the family is not just to focus on the work to be done but also to get to know the family and who they are as children of God. By working together, the families and the ASP team grow in God's love. The ASP team strives to show God's calling on them through their daily living. During this time of service we are reminded that "when you did it to the least of these, you did it to Jesus". Please pray for Christ to be visible in the daily living of the mission team during their work.

Lastly we are about \$300.00 short of being able to pay for everyone on the trip. If you could consider a donation toward this mission, it would be greatly appreciated!

Go and live out your faith in your daily life, to all God's children where ever you may meet them.

Feeding the Community,
Bill

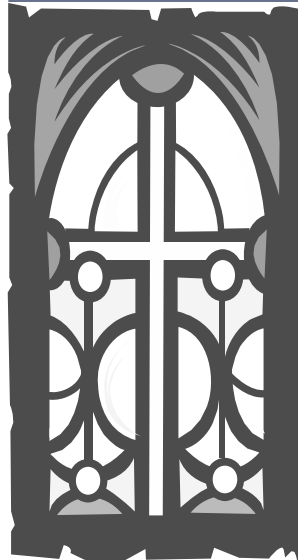
Ghent Faith Family JUNE Birthdays

01	Shelly Moore	09	Ralph Garner	21	Margaret Spencer
01	"Fil" Truitt, III	09	Carolyn Hutchins	22	Steve Riggs
03	Don Nash	09	Martha Phibbs	23	Robin Crabbs
03	Ben Willis, Jr.	10	Fannie Steinfield	25	Geneva King
03	C. J. King	11	John Travers	26	Kevin Allen
05	Paul Johnson	15	James White	26	Betsy Scott Powers
05	Rebecca Keel	16	Harry Harrington	27	Mark Cushen
06	Lillie Beth Rhodes	16	Gene Belvin	30	Susan Tyler
07	Jean Cutrell	20	George Powell		
08	Kathie Butler	20	Judy Dudugjian		

Ghent UMC Communion Sunday Food Drive June 6th.

Each month, on **Communion Sunday**, Ghent UMC is collecting non-perishable food items for the *Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia*. Most needed items are: Peanut Butter, Chunky Soups, Canned Meats, Tuna, Canned Vegetables, Juice, Cereal, Macaroni and Cheese, Pasta and Pasta Sauce. Please consider making this a monthly spiritual discipline.

We come to the altar to be fed spiritually, we leave the altar in service to those who hunger in body and spirit. We do this in remembrance of Christ who is the True Bread of God, who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world! (John 6:13).



Stewardship & Attendance

Attendance:		Pledges:	
May 2	74	\$4,212.49	Needed Weekly: \$5,186.00
May 9	111	\$2,542.47	
May 16	53	\$2,216.31	
May 23	79	\$5,972.77	

Church Office Summer hours will begin Tuesday, June 1st and continue through August 31st. **Summer office hours are:** Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The church office will be closed on Fridays.

The Circuit Writer is published and mailed out monthly. Please send announcements and articles to ssgarner@cox.net or call 623-1862 by **June 16th**.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:30A Sunday School 11:00A Worship Service 4:00P Women's Bible Study COMMUNION FOOD DRIVE	7	8 9:30A Women's Bible Study	9 7:00P Chancel Choir	10	11 5:30P GUMP Graduation	12
13rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:30A Sunday School 11:00A Worship Service 12:15P VBS Workshop 4:00P Women's Bible Study Annual Conference	14 Annual Conference	15 4:00A Annual Conf. Potato Drop 9:30A Women's Bible Study Annual Conference	16 7:00P Chancel Choir Annual Conference	17	18 Office Closed	19 UMW Rummage Sale 8 am -1pm GUMP/ASP Mission Trip
20 Father's Day 9:30A Sunday School 11:00A Worship Service 4:00P Women's Bible Study GUMY/ASP Mission Trip Newsletter Deadline	21 GUMY/ASP Mission Trip	22 9:30A Women's Bible Study GUMY/ASP Mission Trip	23 7:00P Chancel Choir GUMY/ASP Mission Trip	24 GUMY/ASP Mission Trip	25 5:00P Agostino-Adams Wedding Rehearsal GUMY/ASP Mission Trip Office Closed	26 4:00P Agostino-Adams Wedding
27th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30A Sunday School 11:00A Worship Service 4:00P G.U.M.Y. 4:00P Women's Bible Study	28	29 9:30A Women's Bible Study	30 7:00P Chancel Choir	June 2010		

108 Years of Faith - Sunday June 27th

Sunday June 27th is Ghent United Methodist Church's Anniversary Sunday. This year our family of faith will be 108 years old.

To celebrate God's presence in our community and ministry at Ghent UMC, we would like to pay special recognition to those in our faith family who have been members of Ghent church for more than 50 years!

While we seek to be a church that ministers today with hope in Christ for the future, it is good to be reminded of our history! Through our long time

members, we hear stories, remember the past, learn from experience! It is for us to emulate the faithfulness of those who have come before us.

Let's encourage former members, and friends we haven't seen in a while, to worship with us for a "Pack the Pew Sunday!" Don't stop there! Encourage a neighbor, a friend, a co-worker, to join us for worship!

Let's celebrate all that God has done, is doing and will do with Ghent United Methodist Church.

A Shining symbol of His Presence

Charlotte had been home from the hospital for about 2 months when she suddenly began having breathing problems. She stopped breathing, was hospitalized at CHKD, for a few days, but then released without doctors having any real clarity about the problem. Then two days later, it happened again.

We were terrified. Charlotte was born prematurely and at this point only weighed 8 lbs. Her immune system was extraordinarily fragile. After eight stress-filled hours in a germ-infested waiting room, with the doctors still

unsure of what was causing her to lose her rhythm of breathing our daughter Charlotte was finally admitted again to the hospital.



As I tried to settle in for the night, I peeked out the window in her room and there in the distance was the beautiful steeple of our church! It felt like God was reminding me that in spite of the total chaos of the past six months, He was there - as He always is - if we just take the time to look. Seeing the steeple of our church gave me hope and strength.
Justine Conroe



Please visit our VBS Website!

Log on to find out more about what your children will be learning and doing! While you're there, take a moment to register your children or sign up to volunteer! <http://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/ghentumc>

VBS Lunch Meeting:

Ahoy! Join us **Sunday June 13th at noon!** Hear the call of the Boatswain's Pipe - it's almost time for the **IHS Ghent** to cast off into the High Seas of God's Love! EVERYONE is invited to join us and learn the ropes of this year's Vacation Bible School! You can sit yerself down to a meal that's



EGGLESTON and LAUBACH Circles are taking a break for the summer We'll see you at the yard sale and VBS! We'll resume meetings in September!

MARY & MARTHA Circle

The Mary & Martha gals gathered once again for a time of making blankets for **Project Night Night** for VBS in May and had a very productive morning. We extend a special thank you to each lady who was involved. Be on the lookout for upcoming happenings over the summer months as we will gather for fun outings with our little ones! Email Christin Johnson (cln_odu@yahoo.com) or Melissa Meador (melissameador@cox.net) for more information!

High Seas Expedition July 12-16 9am - noon

square with a nautical flair while discovering what you can do to help - even if you're a landlubber and can't attend VBS. Put on yer sea legs and come to the meeting to show your support as we lift up the cap'n and crew and all our little passengers to God in prayer! Childcare is provided for our littlest sailors!

To insure plenty of fresh catch and good eats for the whole crew at the VBS Lunch Meeting, please **RSVP "Aye Aye"** to the church office by calling 622-2843 or send up a flag to office@ghentumc.org.

Candle Burning: Mother's Day Sunday, May 9th. Ghent UMW thanks the congregation for their collective contribution of \$186.71 in honor and memory of loved ones that will go to Mission Giving.

Thank you to the Eggleston Circle for an informative **Birthing Kit program!** With the congregation's contribution, 25 Birthing Kits will be sent to Annual conference, along with \$25 to cover the cost to ship the kits to women who need them. \$64.37 will be sent to Annual Conference for Health Kits.

United Methodist Women - Keep your calendars open for **Saturday June 19th**, when the UMW will team up with VBS and sponsor a **Rummage Sale** to benefit VBS and Missions! We will need baked goods, and people to help set up and price. Watch for more information!



Ghent UMC Bulletin Board

Ghent Faith Family Joys and Concerns

Prayer List

- Laura Birkman (Dr. Whitehurst's niece)
 - Scott Brown (Ralph Garner's friend)
 - Lisa Caster, Chic Descoteaux
 - Andy Edwards, Bill Hazlet
 - Carolyn Key
 - Pat & John King (Brian King's parents)
 - Linda Lindsey, Marjorie Mitchell
 - Mary Parrish, McDaniel Randall
 - Lana Robertson, Fannie Steinfield
 - Dorothy Thomson, Meredith Wilkins
 - Ben Willis
- The peoples of Haiti, Chile and Nashville

- Deployed Military and their Families:
- Rob Collett**, (husband of Robin Collett in the Mary and Martha circle)
 - Steven Morse**, Cortney Doucette's brother deploying to Afghanistan

Joys & Praises

- Married:
- Diana Menendes and Casey Iwai married in Arizona in April!

- Baby Baptisms:
- May 9th - Finn Sherwood Smith
 - May 23rd - Caroline Elizabeth Meador

God of wisdom and love, help me and all others who are struggling with difficult circumstances find direction and strength to face our challenges. Give us the assurance that underneath us are your everlasting arms, which will sustain us through everything we face day and night. In Jesus' name. Amen



Ghent United Methodist Youth (G.U.M.Y.) is a

community of youth, who seek to make all members feel safe, cared for and appreciated while learning to apply faith to life. Join our weekly meetings with Pastor Bill **Sundays from 4-5:30 p.m.** in the Youth Room. **June Activities are sparse due to VA Conference and ASP trip. Meetings resume Sunday, June 27th.**

Stay tuned for the **Crown Financial Ministries "Biblical Financial Study"** collegiate edition. This will be our meeting focus for the summer starting **July 11th**. All youth and college students are encouraged to participate in learning how to be good stewards of all God has given us.

Lamberth Sunday School Class downstairs - Great Seats Still Available!

Follow the sound of singing downstairs each Sunday morning and join us for a fun Cokesbury hymn, the pledge, heart felt prayer and great Scripture lessons! Our class teachers, Dr. Russ Evett, Debbie Bonnewell, Sara Garner and Lionel Hancock take turns bringing us fresh insights and new understanding of God's love letter to His people (that's us!), the Bible.

Starting in June, we'll explore the theme of Christian Commitment to God, to our Church and to each other using Paul's letters to the churches in Thessalonica and Philippi! We would love to have you!



GUMP



Preschool Hallway Happenings!

Spring is a time of celebration here at GUMP! Last week, our teachers were honored with lovely surprises, both big and small.

Next week is Spirit Week, during which we celebrate our parents, who really go above and beyond for our school. During the week the whole school will be involved in a special community service project.

The following week is our last week of school and we will cap it off with a very special graduation ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of our Pre-Kindergarten students!

A man was met at the gates of heaven by St. Peter, who said, "It takes 1000 points to be admitted. The way you lived your life will determine your points." The man stated confidently, "Well, unless I was sick, I attended worship every Sunday and sang in the choir." "Wonderful! That's 50 points," said St. Peter. "What else?" "I gave liberally to the church, oh, and I coordinated mission trips for our men's ministry group," said the man. "Excellent! 50 points," replied St. Peter. "Anything else?" Realizing he only had 100 points, the man began to get worried. "I taught Sunday school for several years." "That's great work for God! Twenty-five points," said St. Peter encouragingly. The man became frantic. "At this rate the only way I'll get into heaven is by the grace of God!" Peter smiled, and said, "That's worth 875 points! Come on in."



Christian Parenting Tips

❖ Begin each day with prayer.

We all need divine guidance as we take on the challenges each day brings. Let children know you'll be praying for them while they're away from home. Then do so, several times throughout the day.

- ❖ Teach children that each new day is a gift from God! Be grateful for it! Wake children with humor. Treat them lovingly. Tell them God wants the best for them, and encourage them to get ready for whatever surprises the day might hold.
- ❖ Make children's daily homecoming a cheerful occasion. Listen carefully to their experiences. Affirm that you're proud of them and pleased to be their parents.
- ❖ Make home life joyful and memorable. Play games, tell funny stories, take walks and eat together. Build pleasant memories that kids will remember for a lifetime.
- ❖ Tell children you love them, even when they do something wrong. Like your Father in Heaven loves you, even when you do something wrong!



Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity!



Children's Ministry

Thank You!

The children's ministry program at Ghent United Methodist Church is thriving thanks to dedicated volunteers. A very special thank you to **Karen Kowalski** and **Martha Phibbs** for **teaching Sunday School** to the children and youth this school year! Karen and Martha each provided a classroom experience where children and youth felt loved and were excited to learn about God!

Many thanks to our **Children's Worship** adult volunteers: **Emily Lindale, Debbie Bonnewell, Regan Riggs, Margaret Belvin and Brian King**. Week after week these reliable Christian servants provide a meaningful worship experience for the children of our church...and an hour of quiet worship time for their parents! And a special word of appreciation to **Emily Lindale!** Emily led the children's worship program for a year and has served as a monthly volunteer for several years now! She will be taking a break as she gets ready to welcome her own little bundle of joy this summer!

Get Ready for a Cool Summer!

This summer in Sunday School, our children and youth will travel back in time to learn about King David, the disciples and Paul! Activities like science, art, cooking and drama will bring familiar stories to life! **Sunday School will be every week from 9:45-10:45 a.m. on the third floor.** Mom and Dad can check out the adult classes! Special thanks to our super-cool Sunday School teachers and substitutes for the summer: Cortney Doucette, Karen Kowalski, Lisa & Brian King, Sara Garner and Gina Brisgone.

With a cool summer around the corner, we have to mention the new name for children's church: **Wee Worship!** Same great program with a fun, new name! In Wee Worship this summer, the children



will discover **Spiritual Gifts** and how God has given them each special talents and abilities to build up and complete the Body of Christ and to do His work. We will put those talents and abilities to work by brainstorming some mission projects, and then making them happen! Then, we will focus on the worship service also known as "big church!" The kids will experience different elements of worship and learn about their importance and significance in praising God.

Our Kids Need You!

Don't you just love those sweet little children going up to the front of the church for the children's message each week? Well, those sweet little children love you, too! And they need you to help them learn more about Jesus!

Help out by volunteering for Wee Worship the first Sunday of each month! Or, think about helping with Sunday School! There are two classes: Preschool through first grade, and second through fifth grade. The curriculum is provided and is very easy to follow. The lessons are lots of fun and you will learn a lot, too! Call Kristen McClung at 268-4395!